

(c) an AV conference manager for managing a videoconference during which the video image and spoken audio of one of the participants is reproduced at the workstation of another of the participants; and

(d) a call control means for controlling a connection between a workstation and a destination device, the destination device being another workstation or other reproduction devices in communication with at least one of the data or the audio paths, the call control means being operable to generate at least one callhandle, associated with each workstation and the destination, each callhandle including a state indicator for indicating the state of its associated workstation or destination, wherein the state can be any one of the group consisting of idle, ringing, active and hold, in which

(i) an idle state represents that the workstation is available to accept an incoming teleconference call;

(ii) a ringing state represents that an attempt is being made to establish a teleconference with the workstation;

(iii) an active state represents that the workstation is actively participating a teleconference; and

(iv) a hold state represents that the workstation has placed at least one call on hold and is able to accept an incoming call.

3. The system according to claim 2, wherein the teleconference includes at least three participants.

4. A teleconferencing system for conducting a teleconference among a plurality of participants having workstations with associated monitors for displaying visual images, and with associated AV capture and reproduction capabilities for capturing and reproducing video images and spoken audio of the participants, the workstations being interconnected by a first network, the network providing a data path for carrying digital data signals among the workstations, the teleconferencing system comprising:

- (a) an incoming call handling mechanism for detecting, during a first teleconference call between a first and second of the participants, an attempt by a third caller to initiate a second teleconference call to the second participant, and for notifying the second participant that the third caller is attempting to call the second participant; and
- (b) an incoming call acceptance mechanism for adding the third caller to the first teleconference call.

5. The teleconferencing system according to claim 4 wherein the incoming call handling mechanism can detect and the incoming call acceptance mechanism can add a fourth participant to the teleconference call between the first, second and third participants.

6. A teleconferencing system for conducting a teleconference among a plurality of participants having workstations with associated monitors for displaying visual images, and with associated AV capture and reproduction capabilities for capturing and reproducing video images and spoken audio of the participants, the workstations being interconnected by a first network,

the network providing a data path for carrying digital data signals among the workstations, the teleconferencing system comprising:

- (a) an AV path for carrying AV signals among the workstations, the AV signals representing video images and spoken audio of the participants;
- (b) an AV conference manager for managing a videoconference during which the video image and spoken audio of one of the participants is reproduced at the workstation of another of the participants;

wherein the AV conference manager is operable to support a maximum number of calls equal to N , where N is any integer, associated with a workstation; and

- (c) a call selector which enables a participant, operating the workstation, when faced with M possible calls where M is an integer greater than N , to select N calls of the M possible calls.

7. The teleconferencing system of claim 6 further comprising means, operable by said participant, to invoke further calls even if the AV conference manager is supporting active calls, and to give the participant the opportunity to select which of the calls are active.

8. A teleconferencing system for conducting a teleconference among a plurality of participants having workstations with associated monitors for displaying visual images, and with associated AV capture and reproduction capabilities for capturing and reproducing video images and spoken audio of the participants, the workstations being interconnected by a first network,

the network providing a data path for carrying digital data signals among the workstations, the teleconferencing system comprising at least one of the group consisting of:

- (a) a remote participant hold selection mechanism for placing on hold, in a videoconference call among a hold-activating participant and a plurality of other participants, at least one of the other participants;
- (b) a remote participant disconnection mechanism for disconnecting, in a teleconference call among a participant to be remotely disconnected and a plurality of other participants, at least one of the other participants; and
- (c) an add participant selection mechanism for selecting a new participant from among a plurality of potential participants and adding the new participant to an active teleconference call.

9. A method for conducting a teleconference among a plurality of participants having workstations with associated monitors for displaying visual images, and with associated AV capture and reproduction capabilities for capturing and reproducing video images and spoken audio of the participants, the workstations being interconnected by a first network, the network providing a data path for carrying digital data signals among the workstations, the method comprising the steps of:

- (a) managing a data conference during which data are shared among a plurality of the participants and displayed on the monitors of their respective workstations;
- (b) moving AV signals among the workstations, the AV signals representing video images and spoken audio of the participants;

- (c) managing a videoconference during which the video image and spoken audio of one of the participants is reproduced at the workstation of another of the participants;
- (d) controlling a connection between a workstation and a destination device, the destination device being another workstation or other reproduction devices in communication with at least one of the data or the audio paths; and
- (e) generating at least one callhandle, associated with each workstations and the destination, each callhandle including a state indicator for indicating the state of its associated workstation or destination, wherein the state can be any one of the group consisting of idle, ringing, active and hold, in which
- (i) an idle state represents that the workstation is available to accept an incoming teleconference call;
 - (ii) a ringing state represents that an attempt is being made to establish a teleconference with the workstation;
 - (iii) an active state represents that the workstation is actively participating a teleconference; and
 - (iv) a hold state represents that the workstation has placed at least one call on hold and is able to accept an incoming call.

10. The method of claim 11, wherein the teleconference includes at least three participants.

11. A method for conducting a teleconference among a plurality of participants having workstations with associated monitors for displaying visual images, and with associated AV capture and reproduction capabilities for capturing and reproducing video images and spoken audio of the participants, the workstations being interconnected by a first network, the network providing a data path for carrying digital data signals among the workstations, the teleconferencing system, the method comprising the steps of:

- (a) detecting, during a first teleconference call between a first and second of the participants, an attempt by a third caller to initiate a second teleconference call to the second participant;
- (b) notifying the second participant that the third caller is attempting to call the second participant; and
- (c) adding the third caller to the first teleconference call.

12. The method according to claim 11 wherein the steps of detecting and accepting can respectively detect and add a fourth participant to the teleconference call between the first, second and third participants.

13. A method for conducting a teleconference among a plurality of participants having workstations with associated monitors for displaying visual images, and with associated AV capture and reproduction capabilities for capturing and reproducing video images and spoken audio of the participants, the workstations being interconnected by a first network, the network

providing a data path for carrying digital data signals among the workstations, the teleconferencing system, the method comprising the steps of:

- (a) moving AV signals among the workstations, the AV signals representing video images and spoken audio of the participants;
- (b) managing a videoconference during which the video image and spoken audio of one of the participants is reproduced at the workstation of another of the participants;
- (c) supporting a maximum number of calls equal to N , where N is any integer, associated with a workstation; and
- (d) enabling a participant, operating the workstation, when faced with M possible calls where M is an integer greater than N , to select N calls of the M possible calls.

14. A method for conducting a teleconference among a plurality of participants having workstations with associated monitors for displaying visual images, and with associated AV capture and reproduction capabilities for capturing and reproducing video images and spoken audio of the participants, the workstations being interconnected by a first network, the network providing a data path for carrying digital data signals among the workstations, the method comprising any of the steps in the group consisting of:

- (a) placing on hold, in a videoconference call among a hold-activating participant and a plurality of other participants, at least one of the other participants;
- (b) disconnecting, in a teleconference call among a participant to be remotely disconnected and a plurality of other participants, at least one of the other participants; and